

September 26, 1974

Dr. R. T. Osborne  
University of Georgia  
Testing, Evaluation and Career  
Counseling Center  
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Travis:

Thank you for your letter of September 24.

When you see Wilmot Robertson again please tell him that I read his book with complete fascination. He is swimming upstream against a mighty strong river, but in doing so he is surely throwing out a great deal of food for thought.

I suggested that we avoid the term "intelligence test" simply because by doing so we might avoid some critical and troublesome newspaper publicity. Most reporters with whom I am acquainted profess to doubt that the tests are reliable, and, in any event, that environment determines the outcome. I think the use of some other term or terms would be very helpful in this respect.

Dr. Lyman Ginger is our State Superintendent of Public Instruction and, if approached properly will, I believe, help us in so far as he can. However, under Kentucky law our school districts are largely autonomous and the State Superintendent can do little more than suggest. Elliott County was pointed out to me several years ago by a bureaucrat in the State Department of Education as a county "where the people are breeding down to idiocy." A tremendous number of aggressive and successful professional and business

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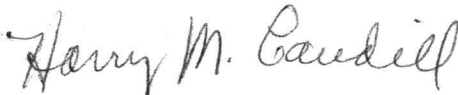
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people in Hamilton, Ohio migrated there from Clay and Leslie counties. Leslie went from 20,000 to 10,000 people between 1950 and 1960. These counties ought to be expecially suitable for the proposed studies.

I think the first request for assistance should be made to the county superintendents by you or someone connected with the effort. If I approach them initially they will wonder about my role and will doubt that the tests and studies to be made are strictly academic in character. After all, I am a lawyer and not an academic.

I am ready to go forward in any way I can.

Very truly yours,



Harry M. Caudill

HMC/afc

cc: Dr. William Shockley  
FREED  
P. O. Box 8  
Stanford, California 94305